

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1 and 11-13 are currently being amended. Claims 14-19 are being added.

This amendment adds and changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sheridan (U.S. Patent No. 5,760,917). Claim 1, as amended, recites that an image input system in which a plurality of image forming apparatuses, each having a scanner function, a printer function and a network function and forming an image, and a plurality of personal computers are connected to a network, comprises, *inter alia*, second setting means for setting exclusion of access by another personal computer to the public folder set in the image forming apparatus, transmission means for transmitting to the another personal computer via the network access exclusion setting information for excluding access to the at least one public folder set by the second setting means, and reception means for receiving via the network permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting, which is returned from the another personal computer in response to the access exclusion setting information transmitted by the transmission means. The image input system further comprises control means for executing a control, in the presence of new image data in at least one public folder, on which access has been permitted in the access exclusion setting, on the basis of the permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting, which has been received by the reception means, to read the new image data from the public folder and store it in the second storage means, and delete the new image data from the public folder.

Sheridan discloses that a user at a remote terminal 2020 communicates with a hub station 201 to select image signal sets to be shared with identified people (col. 4, lines 48-61). The user also sets access rights for the identified, such as view, print, copy or e-mail, and the

selected access rights are stored at the hub station (col. 4, lines 61-67 & col. 5, lines 7-19). The hub station 201 transmits a message to each of the identified people indicating how to access the image signal sets and the access rights (col. 5, lines 19-41). The user at terminal 202 can also modify a granted access right at any time, and the person having the access right changed receives a message from the hub station indicating the access right has been changed (col. 6, lines 3-13).

In contrast to claim 1, Sheridan fails to disclose or suggest transmission means for transmitting to the another personal computer via the network access exclusion setting information for excluding access to the at least one public folder set by the second setting means, and reception means for receiving via the network permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting, which is returned from the another personal computer in response to the access exclusion setting information transmitted by the transmission means. Rather, as discussed above, Sheridan merely discloses that the user transmits access information to the hub station, which transmits the access information to the identified people, but the user does not receive any access information in response to transmitting the access information. This failure is unsurprising because Sheridan only discloses access rights affirmatively granted by a user, but the access rights granted by other users have no affect on a different user's access rights. Thus, one user does not receive any access information from another user in response to the user's transmission of access rights.

Sheridan also fails to disclose or suggest control means for executing a control, in the presence of new image data in at least one public folder, to read the new image data from the public folder, store it in the second storage means, and delete the new image data from the public folder. Since Sheridan has nothing to do with reserving public folders among multiple users, there is no disclosure or suggestion of monitoring when new image data is present in a public folder so that it can be read from the public folder and deleted from the public folder. Accordingly, for all of these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Sheridan.

Claims 2-10 are patentably distinguishable from Sheridan by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, as well as their additional recitations. Claims 11-13 are also patentably distinguishable from Sheridan for reasons analogous to claim 1.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.  
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

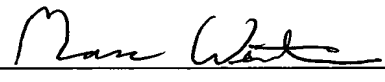
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 12 / 16 / 05

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